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Letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the parliaments of the European States, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in connection with the attacks carried out against banking institutions in Ukraine (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 31 of the current session.

(*Signed*) P. **Iliichev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the seventh convocation of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the parliaments of the European States, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in connection with the attacks carried out against banking institutions in Ukraine

The deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation express strong indignation over the attacks carried out against banking institutions in Ukraine, which reached their peak on 14 and 15 March 2017. These illegal actions paralysed the activity of Sberbank and Alpha Bank, where millions of investors and customers keep their funds and which employ thousands of Ukrainian citizens.

The law enforcement agencies of Ukraine did not take any steps to prevent the illegal actions that endangered the life and health of employees at these institutions. For the first time in the history of modern Europe, the employees of the banking institutions were effectively shut in the rooms which were under attack while representatives of the Ukrainian State authorities, through their statements, incited neo-Nazis to commit acts of violence.

The President of Ukraine, rather than fulfilling his constitutional obligations to maintain law and order, ordered sanctions to be imposed on banking institutions with Russian capital which have been registered in full conformity with Ukrainian legislation, hold significant participating interest in the national banking system of Ukraine and scrupulously comply with the requirements of Ukrainian law.

Evidently, these actions do not comply with the norms of international law, including the obligations of Ukraine with regard to the Council of Europe and under the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement. They also erode the investment climate in Ukraine and deepen the already dismal economic situation in the country.

The deputies of the State Duma call on European colleagues who voted for the ratification of the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement to make effective use of their powers to prevent the crimes and violence in Ukraine and to provide an adequate assessment of the actions of the official Ukrainian authorities.

History teaches us that it is a dangerous policy to turn a blind eye to neo-Nazi activities. The crime spree and outbreaks of violence in Ukraine must be brought to an end.

(*Signed*) V. V. **Volodin**
Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation
Moscow, 17 March 2017